BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 09-45* *November 13, 2009*

- **Revised GDP figures suggest BC economy stalled but did not shrink in 2008**
- **BC exports dip 2.8% in September**
- **Housing starts up 11.7% in October**

The Economy

- **Revised figures suggest that BC's economy stalled (+0.0%), but did not shrink, in 2008.** Although this represents a marginal improvement over the estimate published in April (a 0.3% decline in GDP, measured in chained 2002 dollars), the data continue to indicate systemic weakness in the BC economy during 2008.

  Growth in final domestic demand (consumer, business and government spending) slowed to 2.7%, considerably less than the 4.1% increase posted in 2007. Consumer spending (+2.4%) rose, but at a rate that was well below increases seen in the recent past. Business investment (+2.3%), and government spending on goods and services (+3.4%), structures (+8.3%) and machinery & equipment (+2.4%) also provided a boost to the economy.

  The province's sluggish performance in 2008 was largely driven by weak external demand for BC products. Total exports were down 5.1% as sales of goods and services to other provinces (-2.2%) as well as other countries (-6.8%) declined. BC's overall trade deficit continued to deepen, and was the largest it has been since at least 1981.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **British Columbia was one of several regions where economic growth ground to a halt in 2008.** Alberta (+0.0%) and New Brunswick (+0.0%) were also stuck in the doldrums, while Ontario (-0.5%) and NWT (-8.0%) both lost ground. Saskatchewan (+4.2%), Yukon (+4.5%) and Nunavut (+9.2%) bucked the trend, posting strong growth during 2008. The Canadian economy expanded just 0.4%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Real per capita GDP in the province shrank (-1.7%) for the first time since 2001, falling to $37,529 in 2008.** This marked the second straight year in which the gap between BC and the national average ($39,648) has increased. Relative to other provinces, BC's ranking was unchanged, with the province lagging behind Alberta ($51,665), Ontario ($41,141), Saskatchewan ($41,024) and Newfoundland ($39,398) in terms of real per capita GDP. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **On a per capita basis, real personal disposable income in BC ($25,931) was marginally lower than the Canadian average ($25,963).** However, Alberta ($32,651) and Ontario ($26,447) were the only provinces where the average after-tax income was higher than in BC. Per capita after-tax incomes are lowest in Atlantic Canada and highest in the west and Ontario.

  BC was one of only three provinces with a negative personal saving rate, but the excess of expenditures over personal disposable income shrank in 2008. The province's saving rate was -3.4%, compared to -5.9% in 2007. The Canadian rate was 3.7% last year.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Goods-producing industries in BC continued to lose ground in 2008, shrinking (-2.9%) for the second year in a row.** Manufacturing (-10.1%) was particularly hard-hit, with GDP in wood (-19.7%) and paper (-11.9%), as well as a number of other industries, plunging. Service-sector industries fared better, expanding 1.4% during 2008. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Report Interprovincial Mobility of Immigrants

Did you know...

Of the more than one million Canadians that served during World War II, just 163,450 veterans remain to tell their stories. Lest we forget.

Data Source: Veterans Affairs Canada

- **Exports of BC products fell 2.8% in September, as international shipments of every major commodity group were down from August levels.** Machinery & equipment (-7.9%) and industrial & consumer products (-4.2%) posted particularly large declines.

  A sharp increase in the value of energy products (+18.4%) shipped south of the border helped boost total exports to the United States by 2.1%, the largest monthly increase registered since October 2008. Overseas exports, on the other hand, slid lower (-7.8%) for a second straight month, mainly as a result of weaker trade in both energy (-12.0%) and industrial & consumer (-9.7%) products.

  Nationally, exports were up 3.5%, the third increase in the past four months.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Housing starts in British Columbia rose 11.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in October, following a 16.1% decline in the previous month.** Canadian starts were up 5.4% with Ontario (+14.7%), BC (+11.7%) and Alberta (+10.6%) advancing at rates well above the national average while starts in Quebec (-9.9%) fell sharply.

  Looking forward, CMHC predicts that housing starts in BC will be down 55.7% this year. Nationally, starts are expected to decline 32.8%. *Data Source: CMHC forecast*

- **Contractor's selling prices for new homes (house and land) in British Columbia rose 1.2% in September.** After falling sharply between September 2008 and April 2009, prices for new homes stabilised and have since begun trending upward, advancing in each of the past three months. However, compared to where they were a year ago, new home prices remain at significantly lower levels, off 6.9% in September. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in British Columbia increased 3.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in September.** Sales of North American-built cars (+7.4%) and trucks (+7.7%) were responsible for most of the increase during the month. New motor vehicle sales in BC have risen in each of the past seven months. Despite this emerging recent upward trend, sales remain lower than they were a year earlier, down 9.3% compared to September 2008. *Data Source: SC, Cat. no. 63-007-X*

Health

- **In 2005/2006, the odds of several health behavioural risk factors were higher among off-reservation Aboriginals[1] living in Northern Canada (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) than those in southern Canada.** The likelihood of obesity (+70%), daily smoking (+220%), regular drinking (+44%) and infrequent physical activity (+82%) was significantly higher among Aboriginals in the North. Moreover, these odds were higher in 2005/2006 than they had been in 2000/2001.

  Conversely, in 2005/2006 the odds of having one or more chronic conditions were lower (-33%) among Aboriginals living in the North than those in the south. However, among those living in the North, the odds of having a specific condition such as hypertension, asthma and diabetes increased between 2000/2001 and 2005/2006.

  Data Source: SC, Cat. no. 80-003-XPE

Family

- **In 2006, roughly 70% of recently separated or divorced couples had an arrangement in place for spending time with their children.** Two-thirds of these arrangements were written agreements, with 8% having been prepared by the parents alone while the remainder were resolved by a third party such as a lawyer (21%), a formal judgement as the result of a hearing or trial (22%) or another dispute resolution service (19%).

  Data Source: SC, Cat. no. 85-002-X

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[1] *Self-identified as either North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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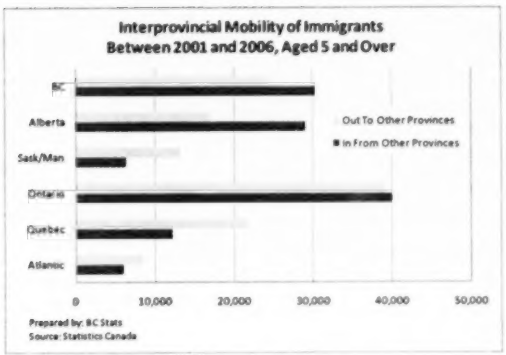
originally published in
Migration Highlights Issue 09-2

Interprovincial Mobility of Immigrants

Immigrants, once landed in Canada, do not always stay in the province of landing. Subsequent interprovincial movement of the immigrant population can be significant. According to the 2006 Census, during the period 2001 to 2006, 30,300 immigrants moved into B.C. from other provinces, while 24,200 moved out of BC to live in another province. As a result, B.C. experienced a net gain of 6,100 immigrants.

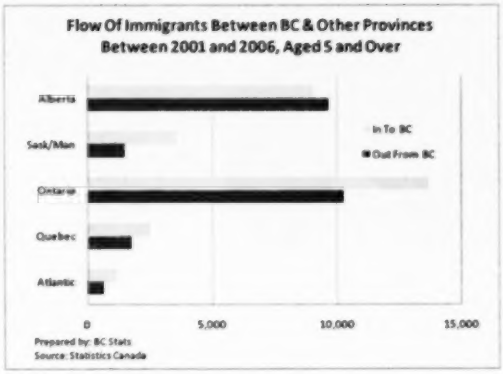
B.C. had the second largest interprovincial inflow of immigrants...



During this period, B.C. was one of only three provinces to show a net gain of immigrant population. Ontario gained about 900 immigrants, while Alberta increased its immigrant population by about 12,000. All other provinces recorded a net loss of immigrant population to the rest of Canada.

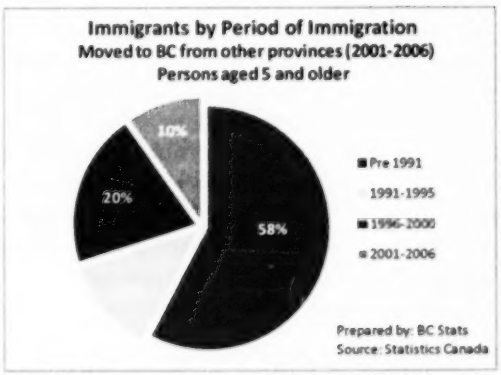
Most immigrants who moved into B.C. during 2001-2006 were from Ontario and Alberta. Likewise, those immigrants who left B.C. during the period to a large extent moved to Ontario and Alberta.

B.C. exchanged most if its immigrants with Ontario...



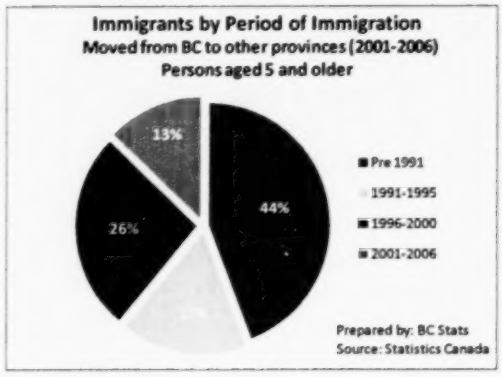
The net exchange of immigrant population between B.C. and Ontario was 3,400 persons (B.C. gained 13,700 and lost 10,300). Alberta was the only province to which B.C. lost immigrant population (B.C. gained 9,060 and lost 9,700) between 2001 and 2006.

Most interprovincial immigrants coming to BC have been in Canada over 15 years...



About 30 percent of the immigrants who migrated to B.C. from other provinces between 2001 and 2006 received their landed immigrant status in the last ten years.

B.C. loses a greater proportion of recent immigrants than it gains through interprovincial migration...



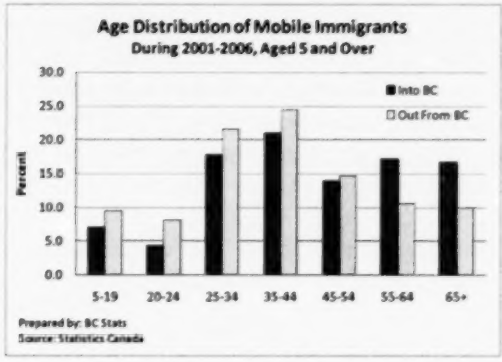
Among those immigrants who left B.C. for other provinces between 2001 and 2006, two out of every five had arrived in B.C. between 1996 and 2006[1].

The majority of immigrants who moved in and out of B.C. were long-term residents, the largest share in each case having arrived before 1991.

Immigrants who moved between B.C. and other provinces tended to be concentrated in the 25 to 44 year age group. When compared to those who left B.C., a relatively higher proportion of in-movers were aged 65 and older (17 percent versus 10 percent).

On the other hand, a higher proportion of immigrants who left B.C. for other provinces between 2001 and 2006 were in the core working age of 25 to 54 years (61 percent), compared with those who moved to B.C. (53 percent).

B.C. attracts a greater proportion of immigrants 55+ than it loses...



A resulting factor from the interprovincial movement of immigrants is the associated redistribution of immigrant skills and service needs. Having a better understanding of the post-landing interprovincial movement of immigrants is useful in determining where immigrant skills will eventually reside, and what service needs will be in demand as a result of internal movement within Canada.

[1] Period of immigration refers to a range of years in which landed immigrant status was first obtained.

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul1/2009	% change on one year ago
BC	4,455.2	1.6
Canada	33,739.9	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 9)		
(BC - at market prices)	2008	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	197,931	3.3
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	164,520	0.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	37,529	-1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,931	3.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Aug	2,660	0.0
Merchandise Exports - Sep	1,896	-2.8
Retail Sales - Aug	4,437	0.8
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Sep 2009)		
BC	-1.2	0.4
Vancouver	-1.0	0.6
Victoria	-1.0	0.6
Canada	-0.9	0.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Oct '09	
Labour Force - BC	2,461	0.3
Employed - BC	2,257	-0.6
Unemployed - BC	204	11.4
		Sep '09
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.3	7.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	8.6	8.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Nov 11/2009	Nov 12/2008
Prime Business Rate	2.25	4.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.80	6.35
- 5 year	5.84	7.20
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Nov 10/2009	Nov 12/2008
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0518	1.2295
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9523	0.8081
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Oct '09	
BC	808.81	1.7
Canada	815.58	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Population Highlights - NEW

Population Highlights is a new BC Stats periodical that replaces both Migration Highlights and Immigration Highlights. This release provides detailed current information on population flows between British Columbia and other provinces/territories and the rest of the world, as well as other components of population change. Also, a feature article provides additional analysis on a topic of interest related to migration or immigration issues.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_pop.asp

Small Business Profile 2009

The 2009 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on British Columbia's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#sbp

Population & Household Projections

The latest British Columbia population projections (PEOPLE 34) are now available. BC Stats produces population and household projections for British Columbia and for a number of sub-provincial geographies in the province, including: Development Regions, Regional Districts, Health Authorities, Health Service Delivery Areas, Local Health Areas, College Regions, School Districts, and six Special Regions.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- No subscription releases

Next week

- Exports, September 2009
- Consumer Price Index, October 2009
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 3rd Quarter 2009

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